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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I support the Kaniksu project but OBJECT to closing roads in the north Colville Forest for the following reasons

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ENVIRONMENTAL -

It is a common perception that the closure of roads by the forest service have actually had far more negative impacts to the environment than keeping them open.

The destruction of the road impacts the actual terrain itself, wildlife trails, etc. Most often Forest Service (Not always but often) will completely destroy an area in an effort to close a road which is much more damaging to the environment than any kind of foot, animal and even recreational vehicle / atv traffic.

It is my conclusion after reading both the Gray Paper (2018) and McCauley paper (2019) that they support keeping even more roads open for forest management that as a result can mitigate climate change and reduce global greenhouse carbon gasses.

1. Forest Fires have a huge carbon impact. Having Roads closed prevent First Responders from accessing key areas to minimize quickly spreading fires early before they become both environmentally impacting and life threatening.

2. Logging - timber harvest and fuels reduction practices collectively increase the overall carbon sequestration capability of any given acre of forest land and, in the long term, generate net benefits toward climate change. Having roads open for all kinds of logging and forest management (Not just commercial) can reduce the negative impacts of Carbon accumulation in our Pacific Northwest Forests.

FIRST RESPONDERS / LAW ENFORCEMENT-

Allowing our Police, Border Patrol, Fire and other First Responders safe and quick emergency access is critical. Destroyed and blocked off roads restrict those key services.

RURAL ECONOMIES -

1. Logging - Closing roads hurts loggers. They spend more time and money having to create new roads that drive the cost of timber up.

Recreation - Local businesses survive on recreational use of the forest. Closing roads prevents visitors from accessing the forest hurting local merchants.

2. Recreation - Living next to the Colville National Forest, I can tell you that the local population takes pride in this forest. Many of our friends are retired or current forest service workers. Others frequent the forest and many local clubs participate in doing our fair share to protect it. Closing Roads limits everyone's ability to enjoy and do our part to manage the forest.

I like many aspects of the Kaniksu Connections Project - but strongly disagree with closing any roads - especially as a Quid Pro Quo. More roads to the North should be opened for all the same reasons you are opening the roads with the Kalispell tribe to the south. I applaud the rest of the joint work done in this Project. Just dont close roads. Please open more roads.